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**swinge** *vr.* swinged; *swinge-ing* [alter. of *singe*] *dial* (1590); *SINGE*.  
**SCORCH**  
*swinge-ing* or *swinging* \swin-jin/ *adj* [fr. *prp.* of *swinge*] *chiefly Brit* (1590): superlative in size, amount, or character  
*swingeing* or *swinging-adv.* *chiefly Brit* (1690): VERY, SUPERLATIVELY  
*swinger* \swin-er/ *n* (1543): one that swings; as a: a lively up-to-date person who indulges in what is considered fashionable b: one who engages freely in sex  
*swinger* \swin-jer/ *n* [swinge] (1599): WHOOPER 1  
*swinging* \swin-in/ *adj* [prp. of *swinge*] (1936): being lively and up-to-date (~ modern); also: abounding in *swingers* and *swinging* entertainment (a ~ coffeehouse)  
*swinging-ly* \swin-jin-le/ *adv.* *chiefly Brit* (1672): VERY, EXTREMELY  
*swinging-ly* \swin-in-le/ *adv* (1882): in a *swinging* manner: with a *swinging* movement  
*swingle-tree* \swin-gal-(t)re/ *n* [swingle (cudgel) + *tree*] (15c): WHIFFLETREE  
*swing shift* *n* (1940): 1: the work shift between the day and night shifts (as from 4 P.M. to midnight) 2: a group of workers in a factory operating seven days a week that work as needed to permit the regular shift workers to have one or more free days per week  
*swingly* \swin-ē/ *adv* *swinging-er*, -est (1915): marked by *swing*  
*swinish* \swi-nish/ *adj* (13c): of, suggesting, or characteristic of swine  
*swinish-ly* \swin-ish-ly/ *adv.* — *swinish-ness* *n*  
*swink* \swink/ *vi* [ME *swinken*, fr. OE *swincan*; akin to OHG *swingan* to rush — more at *swink*] *archaic* (bef. 12c): TOIL SLAVE  
*swink* *n.* *archaic* (12c): LABOR, DRUDGERY  
*swipe* \swip/ *vb* *swiped*; *swiping* [prob. alter. of *sweep*] *vt* (13c) 1: to strike or wipe with a sweeping motion 2: STEAL PILFER ~ *vi*: to strike or move with a sweeping motion  
*swipe* *n* (1739) 1: a strong sweeping blow 2: a sharp often critical remark  
*swipes* \swips/ *n pl* [origin unknown] *Brit* (ca. 1786): poor, thin, or spoiled beer; also: BEER  
*swirl* \swɔr(-ə)l/ *n* [ME (Sc)] (15c) 1 a: a whirling mass or motion b: eddy b: whirling confusion (a ~ of events) 2: a twisting shape, mark, or pattern 3: an act or instance of swirling  
*swirl* *vi* (ca. 1513) 1 a: to move with an eddying or whirling motion b: to pass in whirling confusion 2: to have a twist or convulsion ~ *vr*: to cause to swirl ~ *swirling-ly* \swɔr-lin-le/ *adv*  
*swirly* \swɔr-le/ *adj* *swirl-er*, -est (1785) 1 *Scot*: KNOTTED, TWISTED 2: that swirls: SWIRLING (the ~ water of the rapids)  
*swish* \swish/ *vb* [imit.] *vi* (1756): to move, pass, swing, or whirl with the sound of a swish ~ *vr*: to move, cut, or strike with a swish (the horse ~ed its tail) ~ *swisher* *n* — *swishing-ly* \swish-in-le/ *adv*  
*swish* *n* (1820) 1 a: a prolonged hissing sound (as of a whip cutting the air) b: a light sweeping or brushing sound (as of a full silk skirt in motion) 2: a *swishing* movement 3: an effeminate homosexual — often used disparagingly  
*swish* *adj* [origin unknown] (1879): SMART, FASHIONABLE  
*swish* \swish-ə/ *adj* *swish-er*, -est (1828) 1: producing a *swishing* sound 2: characterized by effeminate behavior  
*Swiss* \swis/ *n* [MF *Suisse*, fr. MHG *Swizer*, fr. *Swiz* Switzerland] (1515) 1 *pl* Swiss a: a native or inhabitant of Switzerland b: one that is of Swiss descent 2 often not cap: any of various fine sheer fabrics of cotton orig. made in Switzerland; esp: DOTTED SWISS 3: SWISS CHEESE  
*Swiss* *adj* (ca. 1538): of, relating to, or characteristic of Switzerland or the Swiss  
*Swiss chard* *n* (1832): CHARD  
*Swiss cheese* *n* (1822): a hard cheese characterized by elastic texture, mild nutlike flavor, and large holes that form during ripening  
*Swiss steak* *n* (ca. 1924): a slice of steak pounded with flour and braised usu. with vegetables and seasonings  
*switch* \swich/ *n* [perh. fr. MD *switch* twig] (1592) 1: a slender flexible whip, rod, or twig (a riding ~) 2: an act of switching; as a: a blow with a switch b: a shift from one to another 3: a tuft of long hairs at the end of the tail of an animal (as a cow) — see *cow* illustration 4: a: a device made usu. of two movable rails and necessary connections and designed to turn a locomotive or train from one track to another b: a railroad siding 5: a device for making, breaking, or changing the connections in an electrical circuit 6: a heavy strand of hair used in addition to a person's own hair for some coiffures  
*switch* *vi* (1611) 1: to strike or beat with or as if with a switch 2: WHISK, LASH (a cat ~ing his tail) 3 a: (1): to turn from one railroad track to another: SHUNT (2): to move (cars) to different positions on the same track within terminal areas b: to make a shift in or exchange of (~ the talk to another subject) 4 a: to shift to another electrical circuit by means of a switch b: to operate an electrical switch so as to turn (as a light) off or on ~ *vi* 1: to lash from side to side 2: to make a shift or exchange — *switch-able* \-ə-bəl/ *adj* — *switch-er* *n*  
*switch-back* \swich-bak/ *n* (1863): a zigzag road in a mountainous region; esp: an arrangement of zigzag railroad tracks for surmounting the grade of a steep hill  
*switch-blade* \-blad/ *n* (1936): a pocketknife having the blade springs operated so that pressure on a release catch causes it to fly open — called also *switchblade knife*  
*switch-board* \-bɔ(ə)rd-, -bɔ(ə)rd/ *n* (1873): an apparatus consisting of a panel or a frame on which are mounted insulated switching, measuring, controlling, and protective devices with connections so arranged that a number of circuits may be connected, combined, controlled, measured, and protected  
*switch cane* *n* (1845): an important forage grass (*Arundinaria tecta*) of moist locations esp. in the southern U.S.  
*switch engine* *n* (1867): a railroad engine used in switching cars  
*switch-er* or *switch-er* \-ɪr/ *n.* *pl* -oos [alter. of *switch*] *slang* (1933): a surprising variation: REVERSAL  
*switch-grass* \swich-gras/ *n* (ca. 1839): a panic grass (*Panicum virgatum*) of the western U.S. that is used for hay  
*switch-hit* \-hit/ *vi* -hit; -hitting [back-formation fr. *switch-hitter*] of a baseball player (1953): to bat either left-handed or right-handed  
*switch-hit-ter* \-hit-ər/ *n* (ca. 1949) 1: a baseball player who *switch-hits* 2 *slang*: BISEXUAL

*switch knife* *n* (1950): SWITCHBLADE  
*switch-man* \swich-mən/ *n* (1843): one who attends a switch (as in a railroad yard)  
*switch-yard* \-jərd/ *n* (1888) 1: a place where railroad cars are switched from one track to another and trains are made up 2: a small enclosed area for the switching facilities of a power station  
*swith* \swith/ *adv* [ME, strongly, quickly, fr. OE *swithe* strongly, fr. *swiga* strong; akin to OE *gesund* sound — more at *SOUND*] *chiefly dial* (bef. 12c): INSTANTLY, QUICKLY  
*swither* \swith-ər/ *vi* [origin unknown] *dial chiefly Brit* (1501): DOUBT, WAVER  
*swither* *n.* *dial chiefly Brit* (1719): DOUBT, AGITATION  
*Switz* \swit-zet/ *n* [MHG *Swizer*] (1549): SWISS  
*swivel* \swiv-əl/ *n.* often *attrib* [ME; akin to OE *swifan* to revolve, ON *swēiga* to sway — more at *SWAY*] (15c): a device joining two parts so that one or both can pivot freely (as on a bolt or pin)  
*swivel* *vb* -eled or -elled; -eling or -el-ing \-(ə-)lɪŋ/ *vi* (1794): to turn on or as if on a swivel (~ed his eyes in various directions) ~ *vi*: to swing or turn on or as if on a swivel  
*swivel chair* *n* (1860): a chair that swivels on its base  
*swivel-hipped* \swiv-əl-hip-t/ *adj* (1947): moving with or characterized by movement with a twisting motion of the hips  
*swiv-et* \swiv-ət/ *n* [origin unknown] (1881): a state of extreme agitation  
*swiz-zle* \swiz-zl/ *n* [origin unknown] (1813): an iced sour churned with a swizzle stick until the glass or pitcher becomes frosted  
*swizzle* *vb* *swiz-zled*; *swiz-zling* \-(ə-)lɪŋ/ *vi* (ca. 1847): to drink esp. to excess: GUZZLE ~ *vr*: to mix or stir with or as if with a swizzle stick — *swiz-zler* \-(ə-)lɪŋ/ *n*  
*swizzle stick* *n* (1879): a stick used to stir mixed drinks  
*swob* *var* of SWAB  
*swollen past part* of SWELL  
*swoon* \swun/ *vi* [ME *swounen*] (13c) 1 a: FAINT b: to become enraptured (the ladies were ~ing with joy — Frederick Way) 2: FLOAT, FADE — *swoon-er* *n* — *swoon-ingly* \swū-nɪŋ-le/ *adv*  
*swoon* *n* (14c) 1 a: a partial or total loss of consciousness b: a state of bewilderment or ecstasy: DAZE, RAPTURE 2: a state of suspended animation: TORPOR  
*swoop* \swup/ *vb* [alter. of ME *swopen* to sweep, fr. OE *swāpan* — more at *SWATHE*] *vi* (1566): to move with a sweep; specif: to make sudden attack — usu. used with *down* (the eagle ~ed down on its prey) ~ *vr*: to carry off abruptly: SWEEP, SNATCH — *swooper* *n*  
*swoop* *n* (1605): an act or instance of swooping  
*swoop-stake* \swup-stāk/ *adv* [fr. alter. of *sweepstake*] *obs* (1602): in an indiscriminate manner  
*swosh* \swush, 'swush/ *vb* [imit.] *vi* (1867) 1: to make or move with a rushing sound (a car ~ed by) 2: GUSH, SWIRL ~ *vr*: to discharge or transport with a rushing sound  
*swosh* *n* (1885): an act or instance of swooshing  
*swop* *var* of SWAP  
*sword* \sɔ(ə)rd-, 'sɔ(ə)rd/ *n.* often *attrib* [ME, fr. OE *sweord*; akin to OHG *swert* sword, Av *xvəra* wound] (bef. 12c) 1: a weapon (as a cutlass or rapier) with a long blade for cutting or thrusting often used as a symbol of honor or authority 2: a: an agency or instrument of destruction or combat b: the use of force (as in war) (the pen is mightier than the ~ — E. G. Bulwer-Lytton) 3: coercive power 4: something that resembles a sword — sword-like \-lik/ *adj* — at swords' points: mutually antagonistic: ready to fight  
*sword cane* *n* (1837): a cane in which a sword blade is concealed  
*sword dance* *n* (1604) 1: a dance performed by men in a circle holding a sword in the right hand and grasping the tip of a neighbor's sword in the left hand 2: a dance performed over or around swords — sword-dancer *n*  
*sword fern* *n* (ca. 1829): any of several ferns with long narrow more or less sword-shaped fronds; as a: a tropical fern (*Nephrolepis exaltata*) from which the Boston fern has been developed b: a fern (*Polystichum munitum*) of western N. America with a large fleshy rhizome  
*sword-fish* \sɔ(ə)rd-fish-, 'sɔ(ə)rd-/ *n* (15c): a very large oceanic food fish (*Xiphias gladius*) having a long swordlike beak formed by the bones of the upper jaw



swordfish

*sword grass* *n* (1598): any of various grasses or sedges having leaves with a sharp or toothed edge  
*sword knot* *n* (1694): an ornamental cord or tassel tied to the hilt of a sword  
*sword of Damocles* \-dam-ə-'klɛz/ often *cap S* (1820): an impending disaster  
*sword-play* \sɔ(ə)rd-plā-, 'sɔ(ə)rd-/ *n* (bef. 12c) 1: the art or skill of wielding a sword esp. in fencing 2: an exhibition of swordplay  
*sword-play-er* *n*  
*swordsman* \sɔ(ə)rdz-mən-, 'sɔ(ə)rdz-/ *n* (1680) 1: one skilled in swordplay; esp: a saber fencer 2 *archaic*: a soldier armed with a sword  
*swordsman-ship* \-ship/ *n* (1851): SWORDPLAY  
*sword-tail* \sɔ(ə)rd-tāl-, 'sɔ(ə)rd-/ *n* (ca. 1928): a small brightly marked Central American live-bearer (*Xiphophorus helleri*) of the family Poeciliidae often kept in the tropical aquarium and bred in many colors  
*swore past* of SWEAR  
*sworn past part* of SWEAR